



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Free Tax Preparation Available for Qualified Individuals

Gaithersburg, MD – (January 3, 2020) The annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a partnership of the City of Gaithersburg and the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, is now accepting appointments to prepare 2019 taxes. The VITA program offers free tax preparation assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals who earn \$56,000 or less per year. Preparation is done by IRS-trained volunteers who assist taxpayers in determining if they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Services are offered in both English and Spanish.

The Gaithersburg VITA site is housed within the Benjamin Gaithersburg Center at 80A Bureau Drive. It will be open for appointment holders only, Mondays from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., January 27 to April 13, 2020. Additional VITA sites are located in Rockville, Silver Spring and Wheaton. Schedule an appointment online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback or call 240-777-1123 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (calls received after 5:30 p.m. will be returned the next business day).

In Gaithersburg, the VITA program is marketed under Bank On Gaithersburg, an initiative to draw unbanked and underbanked individuals into the financial mainstream. Staff from participating financial institutions will be on-site to provide information about free financial education programs and to open accounts for those interested in direct deposit of their refunds. Individuals can also choose to open a savings account and save with a U.S. Savings Bond. A Certified Acceptance Agent can assist in obtaining Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). For more information on the Bank On program visit the City of Gaithersburg Community Services page at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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